Serial No. 09/662,737
Amendment dated October 4, 2005
Reply to Restriction Requirement of September 14, 2005
Docket No. L9090/269360

REMARKS

The Examiner required election to one of the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 47 and 2 through 33, drawn to a method for aggregating information, receiving a specification of a class of items by a selected shopper, each enterprise offering items for exchange over a network, storing information about the items, responding to the specification of a class of items by the shopper, collecting information about a selected item, storing the collected information from the enterprises, and providing the information collected from the enterprises to a selected shopper, or

Group II: Claims 48, 49, 35 through 37 and 39 through 40, drawn to a method for aggregating auction information from auction sites and searching for products or services offered for purchase by the auction sites providing a host site in communication with the auction sites, storing information about the items it offers in an auction database and interacting directly with bidders, receiving a specification of a class of items by selected bidder, responding to the specification of the class of items by the bidder, searching the auction sites for items, collecting information about a selected item within the class from at least two of the auction sites, storing the information collected from the auction sites, and providing the stored information to a selected bidder.

The Examiner alleged that the inventions in Groups I and II are related as a combination and a subcombination. It is respectfully submitted that the inventions in Group I and Group II are not related as a combination and subcombination. A "combination is an organization of which a subcombination or element is a part." MPEP 806.05(a). The claims in Group II do not recite a part of the invention claimed by the claims in Group I. For example, Claim 47, which is a part of Group I, recites "receiving a specification of a class of items by a selected shopper via a host user interface provided by a host computer that is in communication with a plurality of enterprises over a network" and Claim 48, which is a member of Group II, recites "providing a host site in communication with the auction sites via a network, wherein

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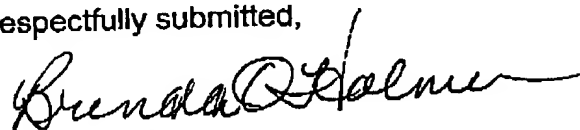Reply to Restriction Requirement of September 14, 2005
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each auction site auctions items over the network, stores information about the items it offers in an auction database and interacts directly with bidders" and "receiving a specification of a class of items by a selected bidder". Claim 47 recites "collecting information about a selected item within the class from at least two enterprises and information about a second selected item within the class from at least one enterprise" and Claim 48 recites "collecting information about a selected item within the class from at least two of the auction sites and information about a second selected item within the class from at least one of the auction sites." Claim 47 recites "storing the information collected from the enterprises in a host database" and Claim 48 recites "storing the information collected from the auction sites in a host database." Although there are differences between claims 47 and 48, the differences do not meet the requirement for a combination and subcombination.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn. If the Examiner maintains the Restriction Requirement, then the claims in Group I are provisionally elected.

Conclusion

If there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,

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